ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A NETWORK PROCESSOR SERVICES ARCHITECTURE THAT IS

PLATFORM AND OPERATING SYSTEM INDEPENDENT

A system for providing a scalable processor and
operating system independent network processor services
architecture. The system includes a plurality of
portable and individualized functional components
representing particular segments of the control
processor's device driver. The functional components,
which include lower level and external APIs, carry out
the various network processor functions such as the
receipt and transfer of packets on the network, and other
functions required by the control processor to
communicate with and direct the network processor. The
functional components are designed to be adaptable to the
various types of processor architecture and operating
systems available and to permit customers or developers
to customize and expand the available network services.

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